

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-11 L-03 ACDA-19

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6995

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4198

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, CH, NATO

SUBJECT: ECONADS: REPORT ON ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE PRC

REF: A) STATE 166924; B) HONG KONG 8646; C) STATE 146984

1. ECONADS MEETING AUGUST 1 AGREED TO REEXAMINE REPORT ON ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE PRC (AC/127-WP/404, CLASSIFIED NATO CONFIDENTIAL) IN SEPTEMBER BEFORE APPROVING IT FOR SUBMISSION TO THE NAC.

2. DRAWING ON REF B, US REP NOTED THAT IN US VIEW REPORT GIVES SOMEWHAT OVERLY PESSIMISTIC PICTURE OF PRC ECONOMY, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO GRAIN PRODUCTION. FRENCH REP ADDED THAT REPORT RESTRICTS ITSELF TO CONSIDERATION OF GRAIN OUTPUT AND DOES NOT TAKE NOTE OF INCREASE IN VEGETABLE AND OTHER FOODSTUFF PRODUCTION WHICH MAY BE IMPORTANT IN FOOD-POPULATION BALANCE. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN OBSERVED THAT ALTHOUGH GRAIN PRODUCTION HAS INCREASED AT ANNUAL AVERAGE RATE OF 2.5 TO 3 PERCENT, HE UNDERSTANDS PER CAPITA GRAIN OUTPUT HAS NOT INCREASED OVER PAST 15 OR 20 YEARS. HE REQUESTED DELEGATIONS ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PRC FOOD PRODUCTION TO PROVIDE CLEARER PICTURE OF RELATION FOOD SUPPLY TO POPULATION INCREASE, WHICH HE CONSIDERS MOST IMPORTANT
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ASPECT OF ASSESSMENT.

3. FRENCH REP SUGGESTED REPORT INCLUDE INFORMATION ON SIZE AND AGE OF WORKING POPULATION, IMPORTANCE IN PRC OF "NON-PRODUCTIVE"

INVESTMENT (E.G., EDUCATION), AND PROSPECTS FOR PRC TRADE, PARTICULARLY WITH JAPAN. HE STATED FRANCE HAS CONSIDERABLE DATA ON PRC LABOR FORCE.

4. MISSION NOTES THAT DATA ON PRC GOLD AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES PROVIDED BY CONGEN HONG KONG (REF B) GREATER THAN ESTIMATE PROVIDED EARLIER BY DEPARTMENT (REF C). BEFORE SUBMITTING US VIEWS IN WRITING TO ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS, MISSION REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON CONGEN HONG KONG'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADDRESSEES' VIEWS ON OTHER POINTS RAISED IN MEETING, PARTICULARLY PROGRESS IN IMPROVING PER CAPITA FOOD OUTPUT.
GOODBY

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